3.29/76

Dear Dick,

Last Thursday's Washington Post had a follow-up of the day before's Times story you may have seen. The Times reported that the Department of Justice had cleared the FBI of complicity in the King assassination. Naturally. It was the second of two so-called "investigations" of the wrong thing. However, the Post story is consistent with what that Times reporter told me last year, when he was assigned to working around what I had already developed: there are and have been lawyers inside the Civil Rights Division who have the deepest doubts about the "solution" to the King assassination. So, the Post reports that Pottinger has recommended a new King assassination investigation to Levi, who is expected to act on the recommendation shortly. It may be a trial balloon of just puffery but I believe it because I believe as I have for months that my FOIA suit is applying enormous pressure on them. They also face the possibility of a trial and the public airing of the non-evidence, which will embarrass.

This and much more convince me that timing in what I'm writing is becoming much more of a factor, which is why I write now instead of getting back to work on the book. I got the draft of the new FOIA affidavit done yesterday and spent the afternoon with Les Payne, from whom I'll hear again today or tomorrow. I may be going to Memphis with him this week, is Newsday wants, as he does. He needs a commemorative story for 4/4 and I've promised him no dry hole, that if we don t get something new he and I can both use from the leads I've given him I'll give him material from what I've been getting from DJ. If there has been no decision of a new investigation - which means the FBI investigating the FBI - a story can swing the balance. It will then mean that what is in the book has caused it, as it will mean anyway but perhaps not recognized.

There are too many things that interfere with my simply getting it all on paper as fast as I'd like to. It would be good if there could be some way of looking ahead, not just sitting and waiting for me to have enough time.

I'd planned to go to bed early last night, 9 o'clock. I was just preparing to bathe when the phone rang. It was midnight before I could get to bed, from two phone conversations and a letter I had to write after the second. The call was from a man with whom I've spent much phone time but have never met. He clearly trusts me where, for example, he does not trust Jack Anderson and his people. I'm satisfied this man is a victim of the CIA mind-toying experiments. I was on to this several years ago, before I knew of the story of Frank Olson, the man killed in one of them. (I sold the evidence to the National Enquirer for $300 because I could not then do anything and they sat on it and lost their scoop.) Little by little quite a story is piecing itself together from this man. He interested me enough for me to get the Olson file from CIA. I've found some astounding things in it the press missed. I'm satisfied there is a good book in this, probably in non-fiction novel form, one that could make a movie. So, I'm staying with it. Maybe there will be another Jill who will be interested or you may know someone else. But it takes time and I feel I can't not take that time.

As long as Newsday will let Les work on the King story and as long as he is willing and can do what I can't I'm taking time for that, too. I'm filling him in a little more on what I know and suspect each time we are together and as he is capable of comprehending more giving it to him. I have him now on what I think may lead to a solution. It is a dnagerous area. He is not afraid. He is one of the Newsday 1974 Pulitzer team that did the series NAL did as the book <u>The Heroin Trail</u>. The Mafia put him out of Sicily at gunpoint. However, those I suspect are very rough characters. I have not yet introduced him into an angle where he has expertise, an angle that by itself could make a book/movie.

Perhaps in commerical terms what I'm talking about is lily-gilding. I think not. I think the possibilities of carrying this further than the enough I have justify the time and the delays. So, I'm posing the question to see if you have any suggestions on what we can do to speed this up, so that by the time there can be the beginning of an official investigation if there is to be one the book can be the basis for it and the public pressure against another Whitewash.

If things go the way they now look, I'll have the less effecient woman for about 6 hours of typing and the more effecient one for about 14 hours this week.

I'll take a walk after I finish this and get back to reading and correcting the draft and, except for the other work that the mail may entail, expect to be able to spend most of the day doing this. I want to be sure that if there are interruptions I can't anticipate there will be enough to keep the retyping going.

After the 16th this will go faster. My wife's work ends then. She'll need some rest but she'll do this faster than anyone else. Perhaps, I don't know, there may be enough to bring up when I have to speak at Hunter the 21st. I think I suggested that I go there the 18th so I can return as soon as I speak or the next morning.

If I don't hear from you I'll take it you have no suggestions.

Yesterday's Post reports a simultaneous Quadrangle-Warner publication of <u>What's What</u> by former CIA man Harry J. Murphy. I think it might be helpful to me in this work while I'm keeping after the government for more records. If it is not too much trouble can you please ask your friend at Warner for an advance copy? It is due in the stores in a few days but the possibility of it coming here is not that good. Too little rack space. And I can't get around to all the stores to see if any has it. In time I could arrange to get it from Washington but that is the time in which the suit could benefit from knowledge of the conent of the book. The book deals with the use of documents, not snooping.

A line from Joyce Illig's notice may interest you in connection with the book I'm working on and the drug-story possibilities:

"...as well as the large reading public that is curious about the CIA (or their neighbors.)" I think the FBI is one neighbor.

Hastily.